

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

## Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council

### Meeting Minutes

#### **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the First Things First—Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council was held on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 3:00 p.m., at the Show Low Public Library, 180 N. 9<sup>th</sup> St., Show Low, AZ 85901.

Vice Chair Pullin called the meeting to order at approximately 3:12 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

#### **Members Present:**

Tom Barela, Claude Endfield, Mary Hammond, Leslie Meyer, Rance Pullin, Margie Tapia, Cathy Taylor, Becky Towle, Mary Tyler and Michael Zimmerman

**Members Absent:** Melissa Webb

#### **Others Present:**

Rachel Daffara, Kate Dobler-Allen, Norm Ehmke, Jody Gaskill, Melody Johnson, Carol Kochlin, Beth Kulish, Rochelle Lacapa, Tiffany Robinson, Maureen Theobald and Kirk Webb

#### **Member Reports and Updates**

Member Tapia announced that Springerville Head Start is now accredited.

Member Tyler noted there will be a Bike Rodeo in Holbrook on April 24, 2010.

Member Meyer shared that United Way is still doing EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) tax return preparation assistance throughout the area.

Ms. Sandy Carpenter, First Things First (FTF) Government Affairs Specialist, called into the meeting to give an update on the current legislative status and noted that the Special Session continues to be in recess.

#### **Call to the Public**

Ms. Melody Johnson, Assistant Program Coordinator for T.E.A.C.H. Arizona with the Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC), addressed the Regional Partnership Council. Ms. Johnson stated her organization is doing outreach efforts and has contacted every regulated child care center in the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Region via telephone and will be visiting child care centers in the Region through this Friday, March 12, 2010. Ms. Johnson announced that ASCC is currently seeking a Program Specialist in the Flagstaff area. Ms. Johnson also briefly outlined the T.E.A.C.H. Arizona hardship waiver for which providers may apply.

#### **Disclosure of Conflicts**

The following potential conflicts of interest were disclosed by the members (related to noted agenda items):

- A. Member Barela (12. Reach Out and Read); Board Member for American Academy of Pediatrics (Arizona Chapter)
- B. Member Zimmerman (7c. Lab School/Model Preschool and Child Care Center); Potential Grant Applicant

### **Adoption of Minutes**

The February 10, 2010 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council were presented. Member Barela moved that the minutes of the February 10, 2010 regular meeting be approved as presented. Member Meyer seconded; the motion passed.

### **Regional Coordinator's Report**

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed her monthly report, noted upcoming community meetings, and asked the members to let her know which community groups in the Region would be appropriate for a First Things First presentation, and to send her appropriate contact information. Coordinator Dobler-Allen then reviewed the FY 2010-FY2011 operational plan.

### **Program Updates**

- A. Salvation Army – Coordinator Dobler-Allen shared that there was no update from the Salvation Army; however, the distribution of food boxes is ongoing.
- B. Apache County ECE/ECD Professional Development Scholarship – Coordinator Dobler-Allen noted that as of March 2, 2010, there had been one application received for this scholarship. Coordinator Dobler-Allen also noted that the promotional materials have been approved by FTF Communications staff and were sent to representatives of Northland Pioneer College (NPC) and Northern Arizona University (NAU).
- C. Lab School/Model Preschool and Child Care Center – Coordinator Dobler-Allen stated there was no report.
- D. Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) – Coordinator Dobler-Allen shared that Ms. Rita Logue completed the required training and is awaiting her certification for Child Care Health Consultation.

### **Discussion and Possible Council Action Related to Council Member Appointment Process and Nominating Committee**

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the Regional Partnership Council Member Appointment Process as noted in the attachments to the agenda. Coordinator Dobler-Allen noted that each Regional Partnership Council will appoint a nominating committee, which will be coordinated by the Regional Manager; the regional manager for Northeast Regional Area is AdiShakti Khalsa. Member Tapia asked if new applicants were considered on the same level as current members and Coordinator Dobler-Allen responded that they are considered equally. White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Coordinator, Rochelle Lacapa, clarified that the nominating committee will directly recommend appointments to the First Things First State Board. Member Tyler asked who will find the community member to sit on the nominating committee; Coordinator Dobler-Allen stated this will could be the responsibility of First Things First staff, if the Council so directs. Member Taylor asked if the mix of incoming Council Members will include representatives from both Apache and Navajo Counties; Coordinator Dobler-Allen confirmed it will. Member Hammond stated she would like to see two community representatives on the nominating committee; one from each County.

Member Barela moved that staff of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council be empowered to identify the nominating committee, which would include one community representative from each County (Apache and Navajo). Member Taylor seconded. Member Tyler asked for clarification and suggested a four-member nominating committee including one member from each County (Apache and Navajo) and two eligible members from the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council. The motion passed.

Member Zimmerman moved to retract the above motion in order to add that the nominating committee be made up of one community member from Apache County, one community member from Navajo County and two eligible members from the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council. Member Tyler seconded; the motion passed.

### **Discussion and Possible Council Action Related to Request for Grant Application (RFGA) Review Committee Structure**

Coordinator Dobler-Allen informed the members that the RFGA Review Committee will be trained prior to their review committee meetings in May in order to make recommendations to the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council at the May 12, 2010 meeting. The members then discussed their interest in the make-up of the RFGA Review Committee.

Member Zimmerman moved to continue the process utilized during last year's RFGA review committee sessions, which included two Regional Partnership Council members and a community member with knowledge. Member Tapia seconded. After further discussion, Member Zimmerman restated his motion and moved that in going forward in perpetuity, the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council utilize this structure for all future Request for Grant Application Review Committees. Member Endfield seconded; the motion passed.

#### **Communications and Public Affairs Update, Discussion and Possible Approval**

Coordinator Dobler-Allen shared that research in the field of communications shows that community outreach is most effective when it is done by local community members. To this end, the First Things First Communications staff have created a PowerPoint presentation, and have updated the First Things First regional and statewide fact sheets to be available as tools for use in the community. Coordinator Dobler-Allen reviewed the proposed Cross-Regional Communications related to the proposed partnership between the Navajo Nation, White Mountain Apache Tribe, and Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Councils to sponsor four Family Fun Days by the end of June 2010. Coordinator Dobler-Allen noted that the three Regional Coordinators would coordinate these functions, which likely will cost between \$9-12,000 per event. The Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council currently has \$16,000 available for Communications work in FY 2010. Coordinator Lacapa shared that all materials for these events will have the FTF brand in order to utilize them among all three Regional Partnership Councils.

Member Towle moved that the Navajo/Apache allocate \$12,000 to the 2010 Cross-Regional Communications Plan with the Navajo Nation, White Mountain Apache Tribe, and Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Councils. Member Endfield seconded; the motion passed.

#### **Child Care Study Update, Discussion and Possible Approval to Proceed with the University Consortium**

Due to a lack of further information, this item will be tabled until the April 2010 Meeting.

#### **Reach Out and Read Presentation and Discussion, Potential Action Related to Barriers/Challenges with FY 2010 Contract**

Ms. Carol Kochlin, Reach Out and Read (ROR), shared that this is a statewide program that connects pediatricians, providers and families to bring more books to children and to create literacy-rich waiting rooms. Ms. Kochlin discussed the current outreach efforts and contacts made throughout the region, as well as a few budget modifications that have been submitted to meet the need for more staff time in this region to accomplish the level of outreach needed. Ms. Kochlin also outlined the reasons that have been cited by physicians for not wanting to begin a new ROR program. After significant discussion, Member Zimmerman moved to allow the grantee, Arizona Academy of Pediatrics Arizona Chapter, to utilize the existing line item within their contract for the purchase of books and book nook furniture for new ROR sites, to be used for the purchase of books to support two existing ROR sites who are not financially able to purchase books for this program. Member Endfield seconded; the motion passed.

#### **Needs and Assets Update and Discussion**

Ms. Susan Brutschy of Applied Survey Research gave a brief update on the status of the Needs and Assets Data Collection for this Region.

#### **Discussion and Approval of New Meeting Date for June 2010**

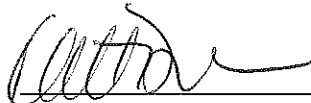
After discussion, Member Taylor moved that Wednesday, June 16, 2010, be the revised date for the meeting in Holbrook, AZ. Member Tapia seconded; the motion passed.

#### **Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council will be held on Wednesday, April 14, 2010, at 3:00 p.m., at Northland Pioneer College in Snowflake, AZ. There being no further business, Vice Chair Pullin adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:56 p.m.



Rance Pullin, Acting Chair



Kate Dobler-Allen, Regional Coordinator